

*Essex*  
Tilbury Urban District Council



Medical Officer's  
Annual Report

1913.

GRAYS:

John Higgins, Printing Contractor, New Road.

1914.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*for the year 1913.*

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Tilbury  
Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

Allow me to express my best thanks to the Clerk, the Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector for the assistance they have given me during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**A. H. FOWLER,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

THE Tilbury Urban District comprises the North and South Wards of the parish of Chadwell-St.-Mary, with an acreage of 1855, and a population of 6432 (census 1911). The estimated population for the year 1913 is 7588, the total number of houses being 1084. There are no houses empty in the North Ward; two whole houses and eight halves are empty in the South Ward; one of the houses has a closing order on it. One new house has been built in the North Ward, and seven in the South Ward.

The South Ward—Tilbury District proper, is practically marsh land, below high water level. The inhabitants of this part consist almost entirely of labourers working in the Dock, or earning their living in connection with them, with a minor proportion of small tradespeople, and constitute the great majority of the population of the whole Urban District.

The North Ward is on a higher level, consisting of agricultural land, and contains less than a quarter of the total population.

Considering the casual nature of employment, there is not a great amount of poor law relief.

During 1913, work has been started in connection with extending shipping facilities and enlarging the Dock. These works employ on the average about 480 men per week, the great majority of whom necessarily reside outside the District, as there is no housing accommodation in it for them. There is no doubt that in the near future further works will be started, necessitating the employment of more men.

In the South Ward and part of the North Ward through which the main road runs, there is a constant supply of water from the South Essex Waterworks Co. In the North Ward there are 13 wells supplying the houses distant from the main road. In the South

Ward the cottages &c., belonging to the London, Tilbury and Southend Railway have a constant supply of good water from a spring belonging to the Railway Company, situated at Low Street, about 3 miles distant.

In the South Ward, the sewage is carried into a main sewer which runs to Grays, and is there treated with the Grays sewage.

In the North Ward there is no drain, privies, pail-closets and hand-flushed closets being used. 14 privies have this year been converted into pail-closets. There are 37 cesspools in the North Ward, and one in the South Ward; these are systematically emptied by a Contractor, the excreta being pumped into a tank, taken a considerable distance away from any dwelling house and distributed over agricultural land.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A great many of the Water Closets on the older property in the South Ward, are at present fitted with long hopper pans. These are being replaced by good type straight back pans, or washdown closets, as opportunity occurs, and at the same time the old stone sinks are being replaced by earthenware sinks.

The whole of the drainage of the Model Dwellings—comprising 192 tenements, and at the houses (semi-detached) in Orient and Peninsula Roads—30 in number, which are the property of the Port of London Authority, has been entirely reconstructed this year, and all sanitary fittings have been renewed; the new fittings comprising 126 Washdown Pedestal Closets, 126 Syphonic Flushing Tanks, 222 Glazed Fireclay Sinks and Wastes, 1020-ft. of lead soil pipes, and 12 New Urinals.

There is one Public Urinal in the District.

## SCAVENGING.

House Refuse is collected by Contractors, under supervision, from each house once a week, from the Restaurants and Eating Houses twice a week, and from the Model Dwellings four times a week. The refuse is taken to tips provided by the Contractors. One is situated between the North and South Wards, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the nearest dwelling house; the other is situated at the eastern end of the District, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the nearest dwelling house; the refuse being taken to the tips in covered carts. No Destructor is provided.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Periodical Inspections of the Houses have been made by the Sanitary Inspector, and in many cases by both of us. The houses inspected have been mainly in the following parts of the District:—

*South Ward*—Montreal road, Quebec road, Sydney road, Broadway, Seymour road, and all the Model Dwellings.

*North Ward*—Biggin cottages, Sandy lane, Grays road, Heath road, New cottages, and the Farms.

In all 530 houses have been inspected, and records taken of their condition. A summary of the work done through the Sanitary Inspector is enclosed.

## LODGING HOUSES.

There are two common Lodging Houses registered in the District, but only one is in use at present. This one is regularly inspected, and found to be well conducted and satisfactory.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Two in number.

These have been frequently visited and the premises found to be kept in a cleanly state, and lime-washed.

### BAKEHOUSES.—Two in number.

These have been frequently visited and found generally satisfactory.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are three Cowsheds, containing 60 milking cows. These are periodically visited and generally found to be in a satisfactory condition.

There are seven Milkshops in the District. These are frequently inspected, and the premises, utensils, &c., are as a rule well-kept and clean.

### OVERCROWDING.

There were 16 houses in which overcrowding was detected; the nuisance has been abated in all of them.

There are three Schools in the District. One in the North Ward, where a new school has been built and will be opened this year (1914); two in the South Ward, the main one being the County Council School, the other and smaller one being the Roman Catholic School. The sanitary condition and water supply of these schools is in good order.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 86; of these, 28 were Chicken Pox.

There were four cases of Diphtheria, due to defective drainage; arrangements are being made to remedy this.

There were 26 cases of Scarlet Fever, mostly in children between 5 and 15 years of age. These cases seemed to start originally from a contact case outside the district, there being constant communication between Tilbury and Grays, Gravesend, and places between Tilbury and London; 25 of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There were no return or contact cases after dismissal from the Hospital.

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified in the North Ward; this was removed to the Isolation Hospital. No definite cause could be traced.

In each of the above cases the infected house was inspected, the patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital, the premises were thoroughly fumigated with Fomic Aldehyde Vapours, and the walls and ceilings repapered and limewashed. The bedding, clothing &c., that had been in contact with the patient was removed to the Disinfecting Station to be steam disinfected. On return from the Isolation Hospital the patients were kept under observation for about a fortnight.

The Isolation Hospital is situated at Stifford, and is under the control of a Joint Committee, made up of representatives from the Grays and Tilbury Urban Councils, and the Orsett Rural Council, and is available for cases of Infectious disease, and for a limited number of Tubercular Patients. 23 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. In each case the patient was seen, and given a card to attend the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Grays, if this had not already been done. When the patient was unable to travel to Grays, the Tuberculosis Doctor was requested to visit the patient.

Any suspicious case in contact with a recognized case of Tuberculosis has also been sent to the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Grays, for further examination.

All cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are supplied with Sputum Pots and Phthisical Handkerchiefs, and in case of death, the premises, clothing, &c., are treated as in a case of acute infectious disease.

No cases of Small Pox have occurred in the District. Several cases of contact from ships that have had Small Pox on board have been reported and have been kept under observation for a week.

The number of primary public Vaccinations of Children during the year was 74; with private vaccinations, this number might probably come to 90; making a vaccination rate of 36.2 per 100 births.

There is one Sanitary Inspector.

#### BYE-LAWS IN FORCE AND ACTS OF PARLIAMENT ADOPTED.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Model Bye-laws.

Model Bye-laws as to New Streets and Buildings.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Clauses of Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

Sections of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.

The number of births registered during the year was 248—134 boys (of which 4 were illegitimate) and 114 girls, giving a birth rate of 32.6 per 1000.

The number of Inquests held was 10.

The Infant Mortality for the year, i.e., the number of deaths of children under one year of age, was 18; five of these being due to Premature Birth, giving a death rate of 72.5 per 1000. The number of deaths due to Zymotic disease was two by measles. There was towards the end of the year a mild epidemic of measles amongst the children, mainly under five years of age. In each case of infectious disease, the head teachers at the school are notified; and in each case of absence from school, the head teachers notify me if they have any reason to suspect that the absence is due to infectious disease, so that I am able to see the cases early. No bacteriological tests have been made this year.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Under the Port of London Authority are two blocks of Dwellings for working men, comprising 192 tenements. These are built with one living room, and one, two or three bedrooms, according to the rent paid. They are in good sanitary condition, well looked after, and all occupied. There are also two rows of houses—30 in number, semi-detached, of a better class, and occupied by men under the P.L.A., holding the position of foremen, sergeants of police, &c., all in good sanitary condition, and occupied.

The Railway Company have provided three rows of cottages for their workmen, 32 in all. The two older rows, 12 houses in each, have a living room and a sitting room downstairs, and two bedrooms upstairs. The more recently built row of 8 houses have three bedrooms upstairs. All are in good sanitary condition, and occupied.

The remainder of the working-class houses in the South Ward may be roughly divided into two classes.

One lot, comprising over 300 houses, built soon after the construction of Tilbury Dock, is in a more or less insanitary condition; nearly all of them are converted

into double houses, consisting of a small living room, scullery and two bedrooms, upstairs and downstairs, with one closet for the two families ; there is no proper foundation, no damp-proof course—or a very defective one, damp walls, and insufficient lighting and ventilation, and unpaved yards, the rent being about 4/9 per week downstairs and 5/3 upstairs for each half house. During the year about 50 of these houses have been put in a fair sanitary condition ; a proper damp-proof course has been inserted, through ventilation made under the floor, the yards have been drained and paved, and the houses cleansed and repaired. The rest are being gradually treated the same way.

The other houses are of more recent date. Some of them are small cottages, built in rows, but the majority are built in self-contained flats. These are in good sanitary condition, the rents varying from 7/- to 12/-.

In Biggen—one part of the North Ward, several houses are in a bad sanitary condition ; the walls are mainly lath and plaster, seldom air-tight or weather-tight for long ; there is no proper foundation, no damp-proof course, and the roofs are usually leaky.

As far as possible these are being put into better condition.

As at present contemplated, the Council are making arrangements to build 234 houses—204 in the South Ward and 30 in the North Ward ; 50 in the South Ward and 30 in the North Ward to have a sitting room, living room, scullery, &c., and three bedrooms ; 50 in the South Ward to have a living room, scullery, &c., and three bedrooms ; and the other 104 in the South Ward to have a large living room, scullery, &c., and two bedrooms. The houses in the North Ward will be

semi-detached; those in the South Ward will be part in pairs, part in blocks of four, and part in blocks of eight. It is computed that these houses will supply accommodation for 810 persons.

No provision has yet been made for surface drainage; this is badly wanted.

75 Notices have been served on different owners to put their property in repair.

No closing order has been made this year as there are no houses for the people to move into.



TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.  
TILBURY URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		At all Ages.	
	Uncorrected Number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1908	3	2	5	7	8	9	11	10	12	13
1909										
1910										
1911										
1912	7000 (for $\frac{3}{4}$ -year)	128	131	18.5	48	6.3	16	6	45.8	48
1913	7588	248	32.6	68	8.9	5	19	18	72.5	82

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)—1,855.

Total population at all ages—6,432.

Number of inhabited houses—909.

Average number of persons per house—7.

At Census of 1911.

**TABLE**  
**Cases of Infectious Disease**

**Isolation Hospital—Isolation Hospital, Stifford, Grays.**

## II. notified during the year 1913.

TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS", WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.						TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON-RESIDENTS", IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.		
	All ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Causes	Certified	...	75	18	7	2	3	2	21
	Uncertified	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	15
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	9	2	5	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Disease	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Rheumatic Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

Organic Heart Disease	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	4	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhea and Enteritis	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth	...	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	5	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	7	3	4
Other Defined Diseases	...	19	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	21	16	8
		77	18	7	2	3	2	2	21	16	8	11		

## TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1913.  
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	3
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Malformation (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	...	3	...	...	...	3	2	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	3	1	...	1	5	4	3	1	5
									18

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 244.  
  { Illegitimate, 4.

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 18.  
  { Illegitimate Infants, —

# Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1913, For the Urban District of Tilbury.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

### 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	10	1	...
Workshops ... ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	26	5	
Total ... ... ...	36	6	...

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ...	1	1	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors...	1	1	...	...
Other Nuisances—Workshops repaired	2	2	...	...
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective ... ... ...	2	2	...	...
Total ... ... ...	6	6	...	...

### 3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107. Lists received from Employers.		
	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ...	1	...	1
	1	...	1

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.						Number.
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bootmakers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Workshop Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Factory (Steam) Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	1
Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	12

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Nil.	Nil.

March 7th, 1914.

(Signed **A. H. FOWLER**,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE through the Sanitary Inspector and under the H.W.C. Acts in the Urban District of Tilbury during the year ending December 31st, 1913.**

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Seizure of Unsound Food—1 Bushel of Winkles, 1½ Bushels of Mussels, 2 Cases of Oranges, 3 Cases of Tomatoes.	
Compensation paid for Bedding, &c., destroyed	10/-
No. of Hand-flushed W.C.'s	15
,, W.C.'s with proper flushing arrangement	1032
,, Pail Closets	26
,, Privies in District	12
,, Privies Abolished during the year	14
New Houses—No. of Water Certificates applied for	8
No. of Water Certificates granted	8
Cases of Overcrowding abated	16
Houses Disinfected....	40
Filthy Houses Cleaned	7
{ No. of Cowkeepers	1
{ Frequency of Inspection	6
{ No. of Dairies and Milkshops—1 Dairy, 7 Milkshops	
{ Frequency of Inspection—Quarterly and occasionally	
{ No. of Common Lodging Houses in District	2
{ Frequency of Inspection	6
{ No. of Slaughter-Houses in District....	2
{ Frequency of Inspection	8
{ No. of Bakehouses in District	2
{ Frequency of Inspection	4
No. of Cottages Closed in 1912	1
,, Cottages in which defects were remedied after making Closing Order (1912)	1
,, Cottages in which defects were remedied without a Closing Order	75
,, Cottages Inspected—P.H. Act....	530
,, H. & T.P. Act	109
Formal Notices served	14
Nuisances remaining unabated	21
Nuisances abated	301
Nuisances detected without complaint	322
Complaints received	85
No. of Representations made with view of Closing Orders being made	—
No. of Closing Orders made....	—